

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 remain in this application. Claims 11-15 are amended herein to be dependent from claim 2.

The Office Action requires election of an invention from the following: Group I, drawn to a process for producing a liquid energy carrier, including claims 1-9; and Group II, drawn to a plant for producing a liquid energy carrier, including claims 10-15.

Applicants elect Group I, drawn to a process for producing a liquid energy carrier, including claims 1-9 and 11-15.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.475 (b) specifically allows, in the same national stage application, claims directed to different categories of inventions including a process and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process. Moreover, MPEP § 1850 (III)(A) states that "the expression 'specifically designed' does not imply that the apparatus or means could not be used for carrying out another process, nor that the process could not be carried out using an alternative apparatus or means." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

No fee is believed due. If there is any fee due the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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